

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 5, 2007

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(a): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority for pre-acquisition services in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed, Sierra Pelona Mountains, and San Gabriel Mountains.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds in the amount of \$50,000 to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority for pre-acquisition services in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed, Sierra Pelona Mountains, and San Gabriel Mountains.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) is an authority created by the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement signed on August 9, 2006 between the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which can be found at <http://www.dmca.ca.gov>. The DMCA was established to help acquire, identify, and manage areas that will preserve open space habitat located in the more northern portion of Los Angeles county. In this grant request the DMCA proposes to provide pre-acquisitions services such as land appraisals, title reports, mapping and land owner contacts. The Resource Conservation District (RCD) is the fiscal agent of the JPA. The DMCA adopted the attached resolution dated February 27, 2007 authorizing a request to the Conservancy for a grant to be used for pre-acquisition services.

The protection of habitat linkages between the Sierra Pelona and San Gabriel mountains ranges and in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed is critical to maintain large scale regional ecological connectivity. There are numerous Los Angeles County-designated Significant Ecological Areas in this transition area between the Santa Clara River Watershed and Antelope Valley. The grant request would give the DMCA the much needed momentum to begin land acquisitions and preserve open space in these areas of Statewide significance. A major fund target would be Proposition 84 funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).